

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system for the verification or authentication of a document or object comprising flakes which comprise ~~Flakes comprising a polymerized, crosslinked or vitrified~~ non-chiral liquid crystal material, which flakes are in said decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object.

2. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material is a nematic or smectic liquid crystal material.

3. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material is polymerised, ~~crosslinked or vitrified~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein the flakes ~~characterized in that~~ they comprise two or more layers of liquid crystal material.

5. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material has uniform orientation.

6. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of~~

a document or object according to claim 1, wherein 5, characterized in that the liquid crystal material has planar orientation.

7. (Currently Amended) Flakes A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, wherein the flakes characterized in that they are platelet shaped.

8. (Currently Amended) Flakes A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 7, wherein the flakes characterized in that they have lateral dimensions of from 10 to 2000 microns and a thickness of from 0.5 to 5 microns.

9. (Currently Amended) Process of preparing flakes A process for preparing a decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, comprising by providing an achiral polymerizable polymerisable liquid crystal material onto a substrate, polymerizing polymerising the material, optionally removing the polymerized polymerised material from the substrate and processing it to form flakes.

10. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which comprises an ink in which said flakes are Ink comprising one or more types of flakes according to claim 1 dispersed in a light transmissive binder.

11. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, wherein the ink further Ink according to claim 10; characterized in that it additionally comprises one or more types of optically variable pigments.

12. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application,

security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which comprises an ink in which the flakes are dispersed in a light transmissive binder in the form of a film ~~Film or coating of an ink according to claim 10~~ provided on a substrate.

13. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is a ~~Use of flakes according to claim 1 for decorative or security applications, security marking markings or security threads, or systems of verification or authentication of documents or objects.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is a security ~~Security marking comprising flakes according to claim 1~~ provided on a reflective substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is ~~Document comprising a security marking on a document according to claim 14.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~Method of~~ verification of a document according to claim 15, comprising ~~by~~ observing said document through one or more linear or circular polarisers.

17. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system for the verification or authentication of a document or object comprising flakes which comprise a polymerized, crosslinked or vitrified non-chiral liquid crystal material, which flakes are in said security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object.

18. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, wherein the liquid crystal

material is a nematic or smectic liquid crystal material.

19. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, which is a security marking or a security thread.

20. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, which comprises an ink in which the flakes are dispersed in a light transmissive binder in the form of a film or coating on a substrate.